



National Transportation Safety Board

## The Chairman's Corner

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Friday, July 6, 2007

### Upcoming Board Meetings



July will be a busy month for the Safety Board, with Board meetings for two high-profile accidents on the agenda. The first meeting will address the highway accident in Boston, MA, on July 10, 2006. It will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the NTSB Board Room on July 10, 2007; one year to the date of the accident. On July 10, 2006, a passenger car was traveling eastbound in the Interstate 90 (I-90) connector tunnel in Boston, Massachusetts, en route to Logan International Airport. A section of the D Street Portal's suspended concrete ceiling became detached from the tunnel roof and fell onto the vehicle. Concrete panels from the ceiling crushed the right side of the vehicle roof as the car came to rest against the north wall of the tunnel. The passenger was fatally injured and the driver had minor injuries. A total of about 26 tons of concrete and associated suspension hardware fell onto the vehicle and the roadway.

Later this month, the Board will address the August 2006 accident of Comair Flight # 5191. The meeting will be held on July 26 in the Board Room. On August 27, 2006, about 6:07 a.m., Comair flight 5191, a Bombardier CRJ-100, (N431CA) crashed upon takeoff from Blue Grass Airport in Lexington, Kentucky. Of the 47 passengers and 3 crewmembers onboard, 49 were fatally injured and one (the first officer) survived.



### NTSB Board Members Attend Paris Air Show



*Members Steve Chealander and Kitty Higgins, along with Ashley Frost and Denise Daniels, with Airbus representatives Bill Bozin and Yannick Malinge.*

Member Kitty Higgins and Member Steve Chealander traveled to France in June to attend the Paris Air Show. Held biennially, the air show is widely attended by the military and commercial airline industry. This year, over 153,000 trade visitors took a look at the 2,000 participating exhibitors that represented 42 countries.

The two Members took this opportunity to meet with an array of companies, such as Boeing and Airbus, to discuss aviation safety. They also met with Paul Arslanian and others from the Safety Board's French counterpart in aviation investigations, the BEA. During the Air Show, Member Higgins met with Patrick Goudou, Executive Director of the European Aviation Safety Agency, and viewed developing technology to prevent runway incursions at Thales and L-3 Communications. Denise Daniels and Ashley Frost accompanied the board members.

Afterward, Member Higgins and Denise Daniels traveled to Toulouse, France to visit Airbus headquarters, tour the Airbus command center, and meet with Airbus safety officials, including John Lauber, Airbus Executive Vice President for Safety and his team.

## Member Chealander Tours BNSF Headquarters



Last month, Member Chealander visited the BNSF Railroad headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas. He was joined by NTSB rail investigator George Cochran and Ashley Frost. An afternoon was spent at the company's rail yard, where they toured the Alliance intermodal yard, BNSF auto facility and the boxcar facility. The next morning, the NTSB met with BNSF CEO Matt Rose and a number of other executives at their headquarters. Member Chealander also spoke to a management trainee class about the NTSB and its role in the rail industry, specifically with issues such as positive train control and crew fatigue.

*Pictured L-R are: Confidential Assistant Ashley Frost, Member Steve Chealander, and Investigator George Cochran*

## Member Hersman Addresses NATA And Travels to California

Member Hersman participated in a panel discussion on the safety of air charters when she attended the National Air Transportation Association Air Charter Summit June 29 in Leesburg, VA. As part of the panel, she discussed some of the Safety Board's most recent aviation investigations, including the accidents at Montrose, Pueblo, and Teterboro, as well as the Board's Most Wanted List recommendations on icing and Crew Resource Management. Jeff Marcus assisted in preparing her presentation.

Member Hersman spent a day meeting with the Safety Board staff at our Southwest Regional Office in Los Angeles on June 21. She met with Regional Director Jeff Rich and the aviation, rail and highway staff to discuss their work and upcoming projects to be presented to the Board. While in southern California, Member Hersman took the opportunity to visit the California Highway Patrol truck inspection facility at Otay Mesa and General Atomics, the manufacturer of unmanned aircraft, in San Diego. She also rode in a BNSF locomotive from San Bernardino to Summit, through Cajon Pass.



*Member Hersman and staff members from the Southwest Regional Office*

